

ECFC 2009-10

MINUTES OF THE OPEN SESSION
OF THE COUNCIL OF THE FACULTY OF ENGINEERING & COMPUTER SCIENCE

Held on Friday, February 5, 2010
in EV002.309 on the SGW Campus

PRESENT

Voting members: C. W. Trueman (Chair), M. O. Ahmad, C. Alecsandru, S. T. Alkass, N. Bouguila, T. Bui, S. Cole, H. Cooper, A. Fargnoli, D. Ford, G. Gopakumar, H. Hong, S. Li, W. E. Lynch, S. Mudur, C. Mulligan, L. Narayanan, M. Nokken, V. Patel, M. Pugh, T. Radhakrishnan, N. Shiri, E. S. Takhtehfouladi, H. Yin, A. Youseff, W-P. Zhu, R. G. Zmeureanu

Non-voting members: S. Bélanger, Z. Bencheikh, G. Morrissey (Secretary)

ABSENT

Voting members: O. Ait Mohamed, J. Bale, G. Beasley, A. Ben Hamza, E. Cotran, M. Debbabi, R. Drew, W. Ghaly, D. Graham, V. S. Hoa, F. Iqbal, M. Lindstrom, P. Pillay, A. Qasem, J. Rilling, L. Wang, P. Wood-Adams, J. Woodsworth, M. Zaheeruddin

Non-voting member: N. Burke, S. Ghaderpanah, J-M. Paquette, L. Zack

GUEST

L. Dandurand

1. Call to order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 2:10 p.m.

2. Approval of the Agenda

Motion 2009-10-01 Upon motion duly moved and seconded (R. G. Zmeureanu / M. Pugh), it was unanimously resolved that the Agenda be approved as submitted.

3. Approval of the Minutes of the meeting 2009-09 of December 4, 2009

Motion 2009-10-02 Upon motion duly moved and seconded (M. Pugh / R. G. Zmeureanu), it was unanimously resolved that the Minutes be approved as submitted with the addition of T. Bui being present; and the removal of Consent in Item 3 along with the addition of the below rewording:

"Upon motion duly moved and seconded (C. Mulligan / P. Wood-Adams), it was unanimously resolved that the Minutes be approved as submitted."

4. Chair's Remarks

Dr. Trueman shared the below announcements:

Dr. A. Sebak of the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering was named a Fellow of the IEEE in honour of his contributions to electromagnetic scattering, and design and modeling of antennas.

ENCS students helped organize the 10th annual Canadian University Software Engineering Conference which was held from January 21 through 23 at the Hotel Omni in Montreal. Over 350 delegates from across the country attended the 3-day event.

Concordia University's Engineering delegation attended the 20th annual Engineering Games in Quebec City and brought back two trophies. The consulting engineering team was awarded third place, and the debating team brought back the first place trophy.

The new ENCS website will be launched shortly.

A project led by Dr. L. Kadem from the Department of Mechanical and Industrial Engineering was recently granted \$108,052 through the Canada Foundation for Innovation's Leaders Opportunity Fund. The project is entitled "Infrastructure for Advanced Non-Intrusive Time Resolved Investigation of Cardiovascular Flows," and looks to help further understand the development and the consequences of cardiovascular diseases a multidisciplinary research approach using highly sophisticated infrastructure. The funds will be used to build a state-of-the-art laboratory for cardiovascular fluid dynamics.

The Faculty's "coffee break for a cause" raised \$500 in a single afternoon. All proceeds will be donated to the Red Cross in support of relief efforts in Haiti and the donation will be matched by the Canadian government.

Nominations for the 13th Annual ENCS Teaching Excellence Awards are now open. Full and part-time Faculty members who have completed 3 years of service are eligible. Students and Faculty members fill in nomination forms, which are available from the Faculty's academic units and at the Dean's office.

The work of Dr. G. Vatistas was recently featured in a book published by Oxford University Press, entitled *Flow: Nature's Patterns: A Tapestry in Three Parts*. The note focuses on

Vatistas and his team's work on vortex patterns, with Concordia University mentioned in a very prominent place, within the images caption.

New ENCS Faculty member Hashem Akbari was recently featured in an article in the Concordia Journal, entitled "Cool Roofs, Cool Research."

Nominations are now being accepted for the Non-medal Recognition of Awards.

5. Question/Answer Period with Dr. Dandurand regarding Draft Policies for Research Chairs and Research Units (ECFC 2009-10-02)

Before discussing the draft policies, Dr. Dandurand informed members of the Council that she has forwarded details of a Call for Nominations for University Research Award and PetroCanada Young Innovator Award to Dr. Mulligan.

Dr. Dandurand informed the Council that the draft policies, that will supersede the existing policies, were discussed extensively with the Senate Research Committee, the Associate Deans of all faculties involved; as well as, at Academic Cabinet with the Provost and Deans. Dr. Dandurand will be having a meeting with CUFA executive during the week of February 8th to ensure that the policy of the Research Chairs does not conflict with any provisions of the collective agreement. Should any adjustments be required, the policy will be amended. Her objective is to have a University wide-policy to recognize, support and evaluate the different research units.

The distributed documents are separated due to the fact that the policy capitalizes on the general principles; while the procedures and guidelines concentrate on the mechanisms and the operations. The policy will require Senate Approval. In the event of unforeseen situations, the guidelines will be modified as time goes on with the consent of the four Faculty Deans. Dr. Dandurand emphasized that there is some flexibility.

There were some questions and concerns raised regarding the draft policies by members of the Council.

Dr. Dandurand has been asked to clarify if the Department Chairs are responsible for the research unit from a health and safety perspective or if it is the responsibility of the Director of the unit/center.

With regards to page 2 of 17 for the Procedures and Guidelines for Research Chairs, the membership of the URC consists of the Vice-President of Research Graduate Studies (VPRGS), two Faculty members from Arts and Science, two from ENCS, one from JMSB, and one from Fine Arts. Although not mentioned, staff from the Office of Research are present at the URC meetings. It was suggested that the committee be divided into a personnel subcommittee and an allocation subcommittee. Dr. Dandurand noted the suggestions. Meanwhile, she did emphasize that the work of the selection and evaluation is done at the Faculty level.

It was noted that members of the URC who are on sabbatical, parental or sick leave, should be replaced for duration of their leave. It was recommended to state this in the procedures.

With regards to a question related to human resources on page 5 of 7 of the Policy of Research Units, Dr. Dandurand informed the Council that for a research Unit to be university recognized, it would need to have significant external funding (infrastructure grant); not just individual grant. She added that the institutional funding program does provide the possibility for research units to hire technicians, administrators, and personnel.

Dr. Dandurand confirmed that the Director is appointed by the VPRGS with recommendation by the members of the unit through a vote. The process is governed at the Faculty level by the Dean or his/her representative.

There was a concern about the parallel reporting structure of the Director of the unit reporting to the VPRGS and to the Dean. As a response, Dr. Dandurand informed the Council that the funding is provided centrally, hence the parameters for the use of those funds are monitored centrally. She added that on a technical sense, it would not be necessary to have this type of reporting structure but is necessary for good management sense. After further discussions, Dr. Dandurand reassured the Council that this type of reporting will not curtail the responsibilities of the Deans; and she advised that none of the Deans were uncomfortable with the fact that the Director would also report to the VPRGS.

Since the policies will eventually have to go to Senate, more time will be required to read all the documents; therefore, any further questions or comments can be forwarded to Dr. Mulligan.

Dr. Dandurand thanked the Council for the fruitful discussion of the draft policies of Research Units and Research Chairs.

6. Presentation by Concordia University Research Exchange (CURE)

Representative was absent.

REGULAR

11. Other Business

No other business reported.

13. Next meeting

The next meeting will be held on Friday, March 5, 2010, at 2 p.m.

14. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 2:45 p.m.

Zineb Bencheikh
Secretary of Faculty Council
Engineering & Computer Science